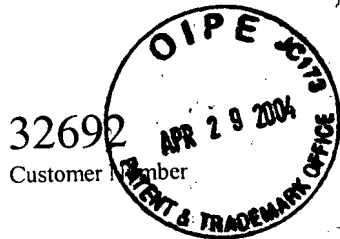


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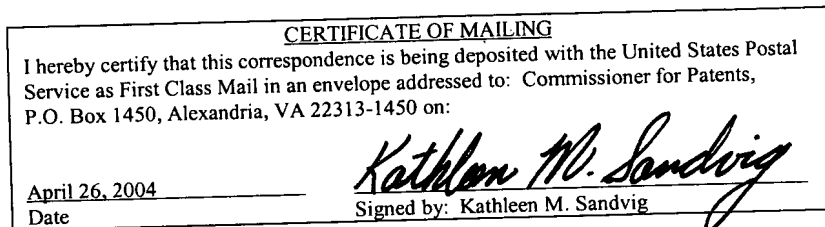
Patent
Case No.: 56331US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: NELSON, JAMES M.
Application No.: 10/027763 Group Art Unit: 1732
Filed: December 19, 2001 Examiner: Stefan Staicovici
Title: METHOD OF IMPROVING COATING UNIFORMITY

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 23, 2004. Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1-17 and 18-22 were restricted under 35 USC § 121 as follows:

- I. Claims 1-17 are said to be drawn to an extrusion process, classified in Class 264, subclass 138; and
- II. Claims 18-22 are said to be drawn to an assembly process, classified in Class 29, subclass 428.

Election

In response, Applicants elect Group I, with traverse.

Conclusion

Applicants have elected Group I. Continued prosecution of this application is respectfully requested.

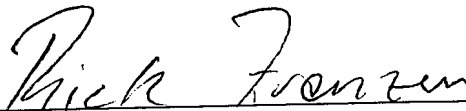
It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number with questions that can be resolved with a simple teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,

April 26, 2004

Date

By:



Rick L. Franzen, Reg. No.: 51,702

Telephone No.: (651) 736-6432

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833